

FYLDE RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

on the

*Public Health
and Housing Conditions*

for the year

1949

G. G. WRAY, M.D., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health

H. GRAHAM, M.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I.,
Chief Sanitary Inspector

Kirkham 2 2 2 6

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COUNCIL OFFICES,
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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the year 1949



To the Fylde Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1949.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

AREA.—The area of the Fylde Rural District is at present 33,264 statute acres.

POPULATION.—The population as per the census, 1931, was 9,217, and the estimated population (1949) 12,290: a decrease of 220 under 1948.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population: Registrar-General's estimate, mid-1949 ... 12,290

Live Births:—	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate ...	... 226	105	121
Illegitimate ..	... 12	4	8
	238	109	129

Birth Rate per 1,000	1949	1948	Mean for 1944-48
estimated population:	19.4	16.7	19.1

	Total	Male	Female
Stillbirths	1	...	1

Rate per 1,000 total	4	Rate 1948	...	...	45
(live and still births)					

Deaths :—	Total	Male	Female	
	132	65	67	
Death Rate per 1,000 1949			1948	Mean for 1944-48
estimated population : 10.8			9.3	12.2
Deaths from puerperal causes—	1949			1948
Puerperal and post-abortive				
sepsis ... ..	...	Nil.		Nil.
Other maternal causes ...	...	Nil.		Nil.
	1949	1948		Mean for 1944-48
Maternal Death-rate per 1,000	Nil.	Nil.		0.93
total (live and still births)				
Maternal Death-rate per 1,000	Nil.	Nil.		0.97
live births.				
Death-rate of infants under one year of age :—				
	1949	1948		Mean for 1944-48
All infants per 1,000 live				
births	13	23		33
Legitimate infants per 1,000				
legitimate births ...	9	19		—
Illegitimate infants per 1,000				
Illegitimate births ...	83	125		—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	14	13		—
Death-rate from Cancer ...	1.14	1.03		1.50
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil.	Nil.		—
Deaths from Whooping Cough	Nil.	Nil.		—

	1949	1948	Mean for 1944-48
Deaths from Diarrœha (under 2 years) Nil	1	—	
Deaths from Tuberculosis (all ages) 3	2	—	
Death-rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System .	0.16	0.15	0.19

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Disease.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) ...	1	1	2
„ (Non-pulmonary) ...	1	—	1
Influenza	1	2	3
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	2	1	3
Cancer of Breast	—	2	2
Cancer of all other sites ...	5	4	9
Intracranial Vascular Lesions ...	6	13	19
Heart Disorders	23	18	51
Other Circulatory Disorders ...	2	9	11
Bronchitis	3	4	7
Pneumonia... ..	2	2	4
Other Respiratory Disorders ...	—	1	1
Nephritis	2	1	3
Premature Birth	1	—	1
Road Traffic Accident	1	—	1
Other Violent Causes	1	2	3
All other causes	12	6	18
Suicide	2	1	3
	65	67	132

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The Ambulance Service is now administered by the Lancashire County Council. Ambulances are used from the nearest County Council Ambulance Station. Ambulance

Stations in the No. 3 Health Division of the Lancashire County Council are situated at Wesham, St. Annes, Thornton and Fleetwood.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Use is made of the Ante-Natal, Post-Natal, School Health, and Child Welfare Centres of the County Council in Health Division No. 3. There are County Council Clinics situated at Singleton and Freckleton in the Rural District, but mothers and children from the Rural District also make use of County Council Clinics situated in the nearby Boroughs and Urban Districts in addition to the two Clinics mentioned.

VENEREAL DISEASE SERVICE.

Facilities for treatment of Venereal Disease are available at Blackpool Victoria Hospital and Preston Royal Infirmary.

The District is largely agricultural and is on the whole a healthy area. There are no occupations which one could term to be prejudicial to health. Employment has been good throughout the year, this is reflected in the continued improvement in the health of the children as demonstrated in routine medical inspections.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

HOSPITAL SERVICES.

For general cases the main hospitals used are the Preston Royal Infirmary of the Preston and Chorley Hospital Management Committee and the Blackpool Victoria, Wesham Park and Lytham St. Annes Hospitals of the Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee. Infectious diseases cases are admitted to the Moss Side Hospital, near Lytham, or the Devonshire Road Hospital, Blackpool, excepting in the cases

of Tuberculosis and Smallpox. Main provision for cases of Tuberculosis is at Elswick Sanatorium. Accommodation for Smallpox is provided by the Manchester Regional Hospital Board at the Ainsworth Smallpox Hospital, near Bury.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

General nursing cases and confinements are attended by District Nurses and Midwives of the Lancashire County Council.

LABORATORY WORK.

The examination of specimens for the detection of the Diphtheria organism has been carried out at the Preston Royal Infirmary Laboratory. The Laboratory is also used for the examination of water samples and milk samples.

Specimens of sputum are sent to the Elswick Sanatorium for the detection of Tubercle Bacillus.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Set out below are particulars of the sampling carried out under the above Act in the Fylde Rural District during 1949 by the Sampling Officers of the County Public Health Department.

A total of 60 samples were obtained under the provisions of the above Act during the year 1949; of these 49 were milk, and the 11 others comprised:—

2 semolina	2 oatmeal
2 barley kernals	1 lentils
1 dried peas	1 camphorated oil
1 olive oil	1 white pepper

In addition to the above, 2 "appeal-to-cow" samples were taken during the year.

All the above samples were certified by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of the following :—

<i>Sample.</i>	<i>Result of Analysis.</i>	<i>Action taken.</i>
1 formal milk.	Deficient 13.3% fat and low in solids-not-fat.	Same vendor. vendor notified 2 "appeal-to-cow" samples taken for comparison were found to be poor in fat and low in solids-not-fat.
1 formal milk.	Deficient 23.3% fat and low in solids-not-fat.	
1 informal milk.	Deficient 10% fat.	Same vendor. Milking supervised before samples taken. Farmer notified and requested to take steps to improve the quality of his milk.
1 informal milk.	Deficient 5% fat ; slightly low in solids-not-fat.	
1 informal milk.	Deficient 16% fat.	
1 informal milk.	Deficient 20% fat ; slightly low in solids-not-fat.	
1 informal milk.	Deficient 23% fat ; slightly low in solids-not-fat.	
1 informal milk.	Deficient 6% fat.	
1 informal milk.	Deficient 10% fat.	
1 informal milk.	Freezing point indicated the presence of 0.8% of extra-neous water.	Vendor cautioned. Further samples obtained.
1 informal milk.	Deficient 5% fat.	
1 informal milk.	Freezing point indicated the presence of 0.6% of extra-neous water.	

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The incidence of infectious diseases generally was low during the year with the exception that 41 cases of Scarlet Fever, 169 cases of Measles, and 29 cases of Whooping Cough were notified. There was no evidence that Scarlet Fever was conveyed in any case by milk. The number of cases of measles increased compared with 1948 following the cyclic incidence of the disease.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
DURING THE YEAR 1949.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Total Cases at All Ages.	CASES NOTIFIED.												HOSPITAL		
		YEARS.												Total Cases remov- ed to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital	
		Under 1.														
			1-2.	2-3.	3-4.	4-5.	5-10.	10-15.	15-20.	20-35.	35-45.	45-65.	65 and over.			
Scarlet Fever	41	..	2	5	20	3	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	..
Pneumonia	16	..	..	..	20	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chickenpox	16	..	1	..	..	..	14	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	169	5	45	46	66	2	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
Whooping Cough...	29	4	8	6	10	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningitis	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	273	10	57	57	96	6	30	2	..	11	..	1	1	2	19	..

TUBERCULOSIS.

The Tuberculosis Service is administered by the Regional Hospital Board, the Lancashire County Council and the Sanitary Authorities. The Hospital Board is responsible for treatment, the County Council for care and after care and the Sanitary Authority is concerned with prevention. A Tuberculosis Health Visitor is provided by the Lancashire County Council and Dispensary and Hospital facilities by the Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1949.

AGE PERIODS.			NEW CASES				DEATHS			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years.										
0—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
25—	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...
35—	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45—	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55—	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Unknown	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	...	...	6	4	...	...	1	...	...	...
			10		...		1		Nil	

HOUSING.

There are approximately 3,000 houses in the area. Some of these houses are unfit for human habitation and many more need extensive repairs and improvements to bring them up to modern standards. A housing survey is now in progress.

Your obedient Servant,

G. G. WRAY,
Medical Officer of Health.

The Fylde Rural District Council

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
WESHAM.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Fylde Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour and pleasure to submit my Fourth Annual Report, being for the year ending 31st December, 1949.

During the year three major pieces of legislation which affect the Health Department and its work were brought into force. These are the Pests Act, which gives added powers and responsibilities to Local Authorities for dealing with rats and mice infestations ; the Housing Act, which removes the words "working classes" from the main sections of the 1936 Act, and deals with the making of grants to owners by the Local Authority for the improvement of dwellinghouses ; and the Milk and Dairies Regulations. That these latter Regulations have given rise to much controversy is evidenced by the seeming unending stream of queries put to technical and legal advisers, and by the many discussions at professional meetings. In the main, the effect of the Regulations is to take away from Local Authorities the control of milk production and to leave them with certain powers over milk distribution. The wisdom of divorcing the control of production and control of milk distribution will be tested by experience. The danger is that, if the scheme does not function satisfactorily, Local Authorities will not be given back control of production, but rather will lose also their duties in connection with distribution.

1949 has seen an expansion of the department. With increasing population, a general raising of standards, and the undertaking of the Rural Housing Survey, the Ministry of Health approved the Council's appointment of an Additional Sanitary Inspector, who took up his duties with the Council in November.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year :—

Inspections (details below)	...	...	...	1040
Re-visits	...	...	...	142
Other visits	...	...	...	31
Informal Notices served	...	...	...	33
No. of legal proceedings	...	...	...	3

Inspections in connection with :—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	8
Butchers Shops	...	...	...	...	10
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	22
Drains and Sewers	...	...	...	...	128
Dwellinghouses : on complaint	...	...	...	...	86
Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	166
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	24
Factories	...	...	...	...	20
Food Inspection	...	...	...	...	13
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	...	12
Miscellaneous Complaints	...	...	...	...	46
Pig-keepers	...	...	...	...	8
Rats and Mice Destruction Act	..	...	...	...	111
Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	115
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	..	...	188
Refuse Disposal...	...	...	...	...	79
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	13
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	22

MILK SUPPLY.

The Milk Act, 1944, and its train of Regulations came into force in October, leaving only the distribution of milk under the control of the Local Authority. There are twelve distributors within the area, all of whom are registered under the new Regulations. They are all "owner-operated" businesses, and so far no difficulties have been met with.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

All the slaughterhouses in the district remain closed, and meat is supplied to the butchers shops from the abattoir at Lytham St. Annes. The number of licensed slaughtermen at the end of the year was 22.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Thirteen visits were made in connection with food inspection, and the following goods were condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

Bacon	...	...	...	...	13½ lbs.
Beef	...	...	...	...	64 „
Carrots	...	...	...	...	20 „
Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	35 „
Peas	...	...	...	...	10 „
Onions	...	...	...	...	14 „
Butter	...	...	...	...	16 „
Eggs	...	...	...	...	45 „
Cheese	...	...	...	...	3½ „
Peaches	...	...	...	...	14 „
Canned Goods (Miscellaneous)...					4 „
Bottled Goods (Miscellaneous)...					15 „
Fish	...	...	...	...	224 „
Total					478 „

There are nine bakehouses in the area, the general conditions of which are satisfactory. Two informal notices were served upon occupiers and these were complied with. Other slight defects were remedied after interview with the occupiers.

There are sixteen premises registered in connection with the sale of ice cream. One is a producer of a cold-mix ice cream, and three produce hot-mix ice cream. In the case of the producers, all the necessary equipment has been obtained to comply with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947. Twenty-eight visits were made to these premises and all were found to be satisfactory.

FACTORIES.

The number of factories on the register at the end of the year was sixty-one. Four informal notices were served in respect of unsuitable or defective sanitary accommodation. All notices were complied with and no further action was necessary. Almost all the factories are small concerns, there being only three (one at Freckleton, one at Wrea Green, and one at Warton) where any large number of persons are employed. No special circumstances have arisen with regard to factories and no difficulties have been encountered.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

All privy middens, tipplers and ashpits have now been abolished in the township of Wesham. There were six conversions, most of which were in Freckleton. It is hoped that in the near future, an effort may be made with the same satisfactory results as have been achieved in Wesham. The more rural parts of the area are, of course, unsewered, and it will be perhaps years before every house will have a proper water closet, drainage, and satisfactory disposal.

Changes since the figures given for 1945 give the following result :—

	1949	1948
	—	—
No. of middens	633	638
No. of pail closets	157	157
No. of fresh water closets	1768	1684
No. of waste water closets	9	10
No. of dry ashpits	372	372
No. of moveable ashbins	1528	1444
Conversions to fresh water closets ...	6	29

These figures include new houses built either by the Local Authority or by private persons under licence. As was stated last year an accurate picture will only emerge from a housing survey. This survey was commenced late in the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of houses visited after cases of infectious diseases was 24. Routine enquiries were made in all cases and 14 disinfections were carried out. The disinfecting agent used is Formaldehyde gas. The Council have no apparatus for the disinfection of clothing, bedding, etc. by steam, but there is a tentative arrangement for the use of the plant at Wesham Park Hospital in necessary cases.

Where cases have occurred in the houses of agricultural workers, in addition to the children being excluded from school, employers have been interviewed and all co-operated in that all workmen from such houses have been temporarily taken off work connected with milk production.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

The control and supervision of camping sites has again taken up a great deal of the time of the staff. Regular visits have been made, and, although one or two sites are still not all that could be desired, there has been a general improvement

in the standard of cleanliness, management and maintenance. Most trouble arises from those sites used for permanent occupation, whilst the true holiday camps are pleasant, amenable and well cared for.

There are thirteen licensed sites in the area which are authorised to accommodate 423 dwellings. In addition, there are 12 licensed individual moveable dwellings.

During the year 188 inspections were made and one successful case was proceeded with in the court.

REFUSE DISPOSAL AND SALVAGE.

There has been no change during the year in the area covered by the Council's refuse collection service. Refuse and salvage are collected from the whole of the district with the exception of two parishes—Treales, Roseacre and Wharles and Weeton with Preese. The Council have undertaken the collection of refuse from all the camps in the Warton and Freckleton areas and this necessitated the purchase and manning of an additional refuse lorry.

The department now consists of 4 x 7 cu. yd. Karrier Bantam Wagons, with three men to each vehicle ; one man is engaged as refuse tips attendant ; and another is engaged as salvage operator and relief dustman. Daily supervision is exercised by the foreman under general direction from the Health Department.

Refuse tips are in operation at Wesham, Warton and Singleton. With the exception of Westby-with-Plumpton and Newton-with-Clifton which are collected fortnightly, a once weekly service is provided. The ideal would be once weekly throughout the district but with present commitments this is not yet practicable.

1949 saw a strange slump in salvage operations and many Local Authorities ceased work in this direction. However, it was decided to continue in this area and a reduced market

was found for salvaged materials. The amount of salvage did not vary considerably although there was, of course, an appreciable reduction in cash receipts. Baled paper was sold to the Blackpool & Fylde Waste Paper Co., tins to Thos. Ward & Co., Manchester, and rags to Mrs. A. Tarpey, Blackpool. Below is a summary of the weight and cash value of material salvaged during the year :—

<i>Material.</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>		<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Baled Paper ...	46	12	0	...	175	19	7
Baled Tins ...	22	7	1½	...	36	15	1
Baled Rags, etc. .	3	4	2	...	40	12	6
					<hr/>		
Total ...	72	3	3½	...	253	7	2
					<hr/>		

WATER SUPPLY.

The number of houses on a district mains supply is 2,379. The number of connections to new and existing houses during the year was 99, and to agricultural premises 7.

The district is very favourably situated with regard to the quality and quantity of its water supply.

There are a few cases of isolated houses and farms without a mains supply. The main obstacle is that of finance, as the cost of laying mains would be quite unreasonable for the number of properties to be served.

HOUSING.

(A) *Statistics.*

Number of houses erected during the year ... 73

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)) :—

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| (i) By the Local Authority | ... | ... | 70 |
| (ii) By other Local Authorities .. | ... | ... | Nil |
| (iii) By other bodies or persons ... | ... | ... | 8 |

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—	
(i) By the Local Authority (included under	
(a) (i)) 	70
(ii) By other bodies (included under (a) (iii))	8

Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 	252
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose..	354
 (2) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
 (3) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 	33

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice :—

Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 	26
---	----

Action under statutory powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936... 	Nil.
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :

(a) By owners ... Nil.

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 8

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—

(a) By owners ... 7

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil.

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil.

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil.

(2) Number in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil.

Housing Act 1936. Part IV.—Overcrowding :—

- (a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded
 at the end of the year ... No recent survey.
- (2) Number of new cases reported
 during year... Nil.

Your obedient Servant,

H. GRAHAM, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.,

Sanitary Inspector.

